

Keeping fruits and vegetables alive

By Rubi Ayon, Miguel Meza, Rogelio Torres Earlimart Elementary

On November 1, 2018, our journalism club went to UC Davis to conduct an interview with Erwin Donis-Gonzalez to learn about how technology helps agriculture.

Erwin designs refrigerators that are big as a store like Costco. This is because you must put fruit in the refrigerator so that the fruit doesn't rot. It also retains freshness for up to 15 days. Thanks to Erwin's designs, vegetables will lose water slowly. In addition, Erwin designs technology to

dry peanuts, almonds, and other kinds of nuts. He also designs scanners for vegetables to keep track of good products for stores. Erwin designs technology for sorting fruits and vegetables.

Erwin talked about why he designs different kinds of technology. For example, Erwin said that he designs technology to help vegetables stay alive longer. Since vegetables are still breathing when you cut them, his designs help vegetables retain water and keep them from sweating. This is important because vegetables stop losing water when they are kept cold. In addition, Erwin designs technology

to dry peanuts, and almonds. During the Interview, Erwin stated, "Since California produces 80% of almonds in the world, he must design products to help dry almonds. Another example of the technology Erwin designs is that he designs scanners for vegetables to help show us good quality (sorting and non-invasive assessment of quality).

In conclusion, we learned that technology makes jobs much easier. New technology is important to keep our vegetables and fruits much longer. All of this is important because we are always looking for new ways to improve our food quality.



Women in Engineering!

By Juan Rosiles, Diana Santillan, Epifanio Santillan, Sandy Bustamante, Elysa Ramos

Freedom Elementary

It was fascinating meeting a female environmental engineer, Vicky Espinoza, a Ph.D student at UC Merced. The Migrant Educa-

tion Program took us on a study trip to UC Merced University. We all thought it was encouraging and exciting talking to Ms. Espinoza. She talked about her job as an engineer. One of the first things she mentioned was how the drought affects our state California. If we don't have water it will affect our environment, and

our planet. When it doesn't rain, Ms. Espinoza said it also affects farmers because they will not have water for crops. Many hydro-electric power plants, that use water for electricity, are also shutting down due to the water drought. As an engineer, she explained how she works together with her professors and advisors to



Farmersville Migrant Education students interview Environmental Engineer Vicky Espinoza.

research ways to use water efficiently in agriculture. She included that she has done research in China and Mexico, because they have similar water issues like we do in California. Her goal is to find the best way to make this work. We found out, through our interview with Ms. Espinoza, that Califor-

nia is a state that has many water issues, because of the way they manage water. However, it was interesting to find out that most of the water comes from the Sierra Nevada Mountains, because we don't get sufficient water from rivers and lakes. Ms. Espinoza said that when the snow melts on the moun-

tains it is transferred long distance. When she lived in Los Angeles, she remembers water being transferred from 400 miles away. Water is transferred to many places in California, according to Ms. Espinoza. We enjoyed our interview with her, because we learned so many interest-

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The power of drones



Andy was explaining how to use the drone.

By Juliana Jimenez, Jennifer Delgado, Jenavi Gonzalez, Valeria Molina, Yaretzi Ramirez, Analeah Ruiz, Uriel Becerra, Julisa Calderon, Esmeralda Ruiz, Tania Osorio and Cristian Leyva

Tipton Elementary

How do drones help farmers? On Tuesday, October 30 we went on a field trip to UC Merced. We learned about drones from Andy Anderson and how they are used. Drones take care of

plants and help crops. We found out that drones are cool; see why.

What can a drone do? Drones are being used in farms to help farmers and make life easier for them. They help farmers take care of the plants by seeing if they have a disease or anything bad. We learned that they can show farmers where there is a disease on the plants. Farmers can locate the diseased area of their crops faster with a drone. It can help farmers



The drone flown by Tipton Elementary Students at UC Merced.

by looking at the plants to see if they have mold (disease) or if there is an area of the crop that they need to

tend to. The drones show you a picture of where the sick plants are. When they

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Developing a college-going culture



In conjunction with the rigorous migrant academic extended day services, the Tulare County Migrant Education Program in Region VIII is intentional in giving

students hands-on college awareness experiences and highly supports partnerships with universities. Migrant staff work hard at developing a college-going culture.

The goal is for every migrant student to know that they can and will be college bound.

It was important to include the following articles depict-

ing 3rd-6th grade Migrant Journalism Students as they began their interviews at the visiting universities.

The heart of California known as “UC Davis”



Rubi Ayon, Angelina Valdovinos, Miguel Meza, Mr. Angeles (Front Row) Tania Espino, Blanca Izazaga, Yerlin Ambriz Ramos, Elina Acol, Kimberly Cueva, Ruby Cueva

By Blanca Izazaga, Elina Acol, Kimberly Cueva, Ruby Cueva, Tania Espino, Alondra Garcia, Valeria Murillo Ozuna, and Yerlin Ambriz Ramos
Earlimart Elementary

The Journalism club went in UC Davis on Nov 1, 2018. We learned about the dorm room, technology, and the Student Market.

The garden needs compost because the plants need the nutrients. There are chickens colored white, brown, and dark brown outside in the sun. Chickens eat dried

grains. We learned how to take care of the garden. That's how adults knows how to take care of the garden.

On November 1, we went to U.C Davis and visited a dorm room. Luz showed us her dorm room where she studies and sleeps. She shared her room and we met two of her roommates Julissa, and Daisy. Luz also told us that everyone in a dorm room had three people in the rooms. Luz also told us that you can pick your own roommates. In other words, you can actually live with

your friend instead of hanging out. These are some of the things we learned about dorm rooms from Luz.

The student volunteers guiding us through the Student Market were Abraham and Jade. For example, we saw different fruits and vegetables like bell peppers, and carrots. We saw a salad get made in the greenhouse. The first plant that we ate was raspberry. The second plant we saw was Pineapple Saye. We also saw purple lettuce. The last plants were flowers: honey bee scene is stomata, evening, and pollen. We went to go see the food market to learn about how plants grow. For example, we learn that you don't have to be a expert in plants to have a garden. In addition, the student Market allows the students to take care of the garden. Students can learn about different kinds of plant. They can touch see and even taste exotic plants. We also learned different animals to help plants grow. It was net to learn now information.

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don't have to be an expert in plants to have a garden. Students



Students from Earlimart Elementary and Alila Elementary listen to the student volunteers from UC Daivs

dents at UC Davis can learn about different kinds of plants that students would not see. Students can even taste exotic plants. We also learned different animals that help plants grow. It was neat to learn new information.

We got to Interview Erwin Donis-Gonzalez and Monica Alandete-Saez. We learned that Erwin works with technology in agriculture for fruits and vegetables. Erwin also told us how he started to like technology

in agriculture, “That it all started when his grandpa

cause he was working on his truck. Then his grandpa picked him up and put him inside the truck's motor. His grandpa passed him a wrench to screw a nail in the motor. When we asked questions about technology, Erwin told us about the refrigerators that he designs. It was very exciting to talk to these two experts from UC Davis.

The trip to UC Davis was awesome. We got to learn about plants and even big refrigerators. This is a small piece of gold in our valley. All of this information is important because we learned about what makes UC Davis an amazing school.

told him to help him be-



A small, wonderful farm

By Alila Journalism Club
Alila Elementary



Alila Journalism Club: Pablo Garcia, Anayly Vazquez, Michelle Lopez, Alejandra Morales, Edna Pena, Jesus Alvarado, Karla Benitez, Adriana De Dios, Juan De Dios, Jason Figueroa, Yeimy Garica, Fatima Granados, Adan Lopez, Arianne Quevedo Gaitan, Guadalupe Vasquez-Garcia

Have you ever wondered how students make a beautiful farm? Well if you have that question, I would

recommend you visit UC Davis. At UC Davis you can learn about the different careers in farming such as

technology, types of plants, and different animals. If you ever go to UC Davis and would like to check it out

you will find yourself surrounded by so much incredible agricultural technology! Our journalism class went to UC Davis on November 1st to learn about various plants and technology. It's incredible how some people are starting to learn new ways on how to help our earth and make it better!

In the Market Garden you can visit different places. For example, one place you can visit is the Butterfly Garden. One of the flowers in the Butterfly Garden we learned about was the chocolate flower. The color of the flower is dark brown and has a wonderful smell of chocolate. In addition, we saw the Kiwi and Arbor Gardens. The vines were green and wrapped around the wood. We also got to visit a fig tree that had dark purple figs and they looked delicious. We ended the tour at the compost beds where

insects make organic nutrients for plants.

At UC Davis, we learned about animals on the farm. The animals are important because they help the farm. We enjoyed visiting the chicken area. They provide eggs to students on campus to study. They also give the eggs to the schools cafeteria. The chickens also help to make nutrients that make plants grow.

Technology is a big part of UC Davis. We visited the greenhouse that helps to grow plants that can't grow in the winter. The greenhouse provide a safe place for plants to grow. This is important because several plants won't survive without this technology. We can help plants grow and then later be able to plant them outside. In addition, the greenhouse provides different climates for different plants to grow. The greenhouse

also protects small seeds. The green house we saw was big like a house and even had a big air conditioner. Another fraction of the green house looked like if it had a net around it to keep insects out.

Plants are beautiful and each one of them has a purpose on what makes them so important. There were lots of different plants at UC Davis.

We saw plants called Fever Few Yellows and Scabios. We saw a tunnels of vines. The vines were wrapped around wood to keep the kiwi plants straight. We also saw different types of flowers at the student farm. Our guides said that flowers are used to attract bees to help pollinate the flowers on fruits and vegetables.



Map of The UC Davis Student Farm

La Taqueria Sanchez

By Gladis Sanchez
Pixley Elementary

On Wednesday, November 28, 2018, this reporter was given the opportunity to interview my mother, Rosa Sanchez. This interview was conducted in the living room after work. The interview was conducted in my mother's kitchen. The purpose of our interview was to find out more about

where my mother works and what type of technology she uses in the workplace.

When my mother was in the living room I had the chance to ask her, what did she want to be before she worked in the taqueria. She wanted to be a hairdresser because when she got bored she would get her doll and make a hairdo. She would take her favorite doll and

do the best hairdo that she knew from her mother.

My mom has a lot of technology at her work place. My mom has to use a “plancha” to do the tortillas and the meat for the tacos or other kinds of food. A “plancha” is a hot grill. Her kitchen for work is located in her mobile taco truck. The truck is equipped with everything she needs to pre-

pare food on the spot for her customers. She uses a credit machine for some customers that pay with a credit card. She uses a phone to take orders from customers. She uses the internet as well because the credit machine needs internet in order to work.

When I asked my mom what technology she would like to have in her work she

said another phone because she gets a lot of calls from her customers. She would like to have another credit card machine and more wifi to help connect it.

One of the last questions I asked my mom was if she thought she would do this type of job for

the rest of her life and she said no because as she gets older she will not be able to have 16 hours a day of energy to do this job.



WOMEN

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ing things about how tech-

nology is used in agriculture and how it helps us take care of our environment. We were amazed that Ms.

Espinoza knew so much about the use of technology, not only in agriculture, but also to protect our

environment. We found out that her main interest was finding ways to use water efficiently. It was so much fun

listening to Ms. Espinoza telling us about electronics in agriculture. We were so impressed with her inter-

view and will always remember to use water wisely and efficiently to protect our environment.

Adventures at AgVenture

By Elber Barco Gomez, Antony Uribe Figueroa
Waukena Elementary

On November 9th, 2018, 4th graders Elber and Antony were lucky enough to interview Melvin “Mel” Montero, owner of Montero Trucking. In his free time, Mel volunteers at AgVentures and the farm show and collects tractors. In fact, one of his tractors can be found at the AgVentures museum!

Before we started talking to Mel about the history of tractors, we asked him about his history. Mel was born right here in Tulare, California. Mel began working on his parents’ dairy at the age of 5. He got his

first paycheck at age seven. Today, Mel owns his own trucking company with his business partner, who just happens to be his son. Mel has a truck that hauls gravel and feed to dairies, and also trucks that help with the demolition of different buildings. Demolition is when you destroy stuff, like old houses and dairies. In fact, demolition is how Mel got started collecting tractors. He would find a lot of old tractors that people didn’t want on the dairies and take them home and fix them.

Mel told us quite a bit about how technology is used today in agriculture. He said that there are actually tractors that don’t need drivers because they drive by themselves. They’re not legal

yet, but will be in the future. Also, he told us how technology is used when farmers plant corn. In the past, people would try to drive as straight as they could when making their rows of corn, but today they use GPS to make their rows perfectly straight. Mel also told us how his son uses a phone app that will immediately tell them when something is wrong with one of their trucks, and even order the part that will fix it! He said that the number one reason we use technology is to do a better job and produce more of the product we are producing.

Later in our visit, Mel took us in to the tractor museum and told us a bunch of information about tractors.

The first tractor was invented in the 1920s. Many tractors are made on the eastern coast of the United States. An average tractor today costs over \$200,000. The best part of the visit was when Elber asked if tractors were “comfy” and was allowed to climb inside the cab of an International. When Elber was inside, Mel explained what each of the buttons and levers did, showed him the radio and air conditioning, the steering wheel, and the different pedals and what each did. Elber even got to touch all the different buttons and levers. However, the tractor wasn’t working; so sadly, nothing happened. Mel let us know that the tractor Elber sat in was a prototype that was being loaned to the

Farm Show for 99 years! The Farm Show uses the tractor to teach students and other people about how tractors are used in farming today.

We really enjoyed our

time with Mel, and would recommend a visit to anyone who is interested in learning more about agriculture, or the technology that people use in technology today.



Elber Barco, Antony Uribe Figueroa, and Melvin “Mel” Montero

Fresh plants and new flavors



Alila students tasting plants they foraged

By Alila Journalism Club
Alila Elementary

Did you know you could make a whole meal out of fresh plants on a farm? An activity we did at UC Davis was we making a salad out of fresh vegetables from the student garden. Some of the vegetables we were able to use were spinach, flowers, spearmint, and red tomatoes. The salad we made was amazing and so fresh!

It’s incredible how some people are starting to learn new ways on how to help or earth or make it better. The plant farm is amazing on how many living plants they have in one spot. These plants are used for many students to study and learn about the earth. It was amazing to learn so much in just one small fraction of UC Davis.

Worm Races



Alila students enjoy worm races to learn about the difference worms make.

By Alila Journalism Club
Alila Elementary

Have you ever wondered what awesome activities they have at UC Davis? One of the activities we participated in was a worm race at the Student Farm. The worm race is an activity where you get a worm from the compost box, which the tour guides opened. We held the worm with a fork and placed them on a table where

there were sheets of paper. We started off by putting the worms on the start line and then we saw which worm got to the finish side first. Something important we learned about worms at UC Davis was that worms are very important for our earth because they help decompose foods. If they didn’t decompose things just imagine how different our earth would look. Worms are an important part of earth’s nature

Grape Packer



By Kevin Lorenzano Espino
Pixley Elementary

On Tuesday, November 27, 2018, this reporter had the great pleasure of interviewing my mother, Antelmia Espino. My interview was conducted in my mother’s kitchen. The purpose of our interview was to find out more about where my mother works and what type of technology she uses in the workplace.

My mother, Antelmia, has been working as a packer for three months. She never imagined she would be doing this for so

long. She likes her work as a packer. She packs and she uses scissors to cut the grapes. This technology helps to cut the fruit so it doesn’t get damaged. She use to work in Washington, her work there was as an apple packer. Her boss’s name is Eustacio Fernandez. She dreamed about having opportunities for her family.

When I asked her about the type of technology that she uses in her job, she told me that the most important thing she needs are her hands. I am glad that my mother enjoys her work and I am proud of her.

Growing Cotton in the Central Valley



Blake and Alvin getting ready to pick cotton.

By Aizalynn Ojeda, Nayeli Jimenez, Franco Alba Tello, Esgard Espino, Mariah Hernandez, and Danna Martinez
Pixley Elementary

Have you ever wondered where your clothes come from? Did you know they are made out of cotton? On, Thursday, November 8th we interviewed Alvin and Janie Berbereia. They own AJ Berbereia Farm-

ing. They farm cotton and commercially pick cotton for other people. Their son Blake works with them and he is the owner of Berbereia Engineering and Manufacturing. Blake’s job is to pick the cotton by driving the cotton picker.

Alvin and Janie started picking cotton when they got out of high school. Before that Janie worked at her parents’ farm and Alvin worked at his



Cotton has been picked.



Janie is packing the cotton. Janie’s granddaughter Ava came to see her.

grandparents’ dairy. Today they have their own business with their son Blake. They told us that they like growing cotton because it is good for the environment and it is a good rotation crop.

They use technology because it makes their job

easier and faster. They have a John Deere 9960 four row cotton picker. Blake has also invented and patented the “Row Digger.” The Row Digger will make digging easier after a border or ditch is done.

Farmersville Migrant Students Visit UC Merced

By Journalism Club
Freedom Elementary

What an awesome study trip! The Migrant Education Program took our class to visit UC Merced. Nineteen migrant students, our teacher, Mrs. Valdez, and the migrant program area administrator, Mrs. Davalos, went on this study trip. Even though it was a cold morning, we were very excited all the way to Merced. Everyone we spoke to was very nice to us. Although, we thought it was really cool how technology is used in agriculture, it was really amazing when we met two UC Merced students, Vicky Espinoza and Lorenzo Booth, who are environmental engineers. We had the opportunity to interview Ms. Espinoza and Mr. Booth and found out that both of them are concerned



Farmersville Migrant Education students touring UC Merced



about how pollution ruins our environment. Some of the things we learned were how drones are used to measure moisture in the soil. We also saw an awesome demonstration on how robots are used to check if fruit is ripe. One other very

interesting thing that we all enjoyed was a demonstration of a tree shaker that engineers designed using small machines. But the best part of the trip was when they took us to the library. We used controls as we watched on a 3D screen

how we could travel to many places around the world, for example, cities like Tucson and countries such as Egypt and Iraq. This was a memorable experience because we met two amazing engineers, Ms. Espinoza and Mr. Booth. We learned how to

protect the environment and how to use water efficiently. And that we get water from the Sierra Mountains when the snow melts. We also learned how droughts can affect our soil and our food. Many water plants are shutting down because of the

drought. It was finally time to board the bus and return to Farmersville. We will never forget our wonderful study trip to UC Merced and we want to thank Mrs. Valdez and Ms. Davalos for taking us.

Pistachio farming

By Sidney Gomez
Pixley Elementary

On Wednesday, November 28, 2018, this reporter was given some time to interview my father, Eduardo Antonio Garcia Urias. This interview was conducted at my house after school. The purpose of our interview was to find out what type of tools or technology he uses at their workplace.

My father, Eduardo Garcia Urias, has been working as a pistachio farmer for three years. He is a pistachio farm worker that trims the pistachio trees. Right now is pistachio season in Pixley, California. The reason why

he is working in the fields is because he didn't have the privilege of being born here. He has a big responsibility. His responsibility is to form the small trees. He has to use specific tools for his work. He could not work only with his hands, he needs to use tools so he doesn't get hurt or injured. Some of the tools he uses at his workplace are scissors, a saw, and a slingshot. His employer provides him with all of the tools he needs to perform his job. Sometimes I think that where he works is pretty hard because he says that, "Everything is manual work." When I asked him what kind of technology he would like to

use he said, "None, because we would lose our jobs."

I kind of feel bad for my dad because he said, "It is possible that I will end up working there in the fields forever." The only reason he likes to work there is because he likes to spend time with his friends, but he had a dream about being a professional soccer player.

I really enjoyed interviewing my father because I got to know what kind of technology they use, what kind of tools they use, what is the company name of where he works, and what did he wanted to be when he was a little boy, which was a



professional soccer player. I really wish my dad could

get a better job so then he could get paid well and not

the \$11.40 that he gets paid right now.

La Lonchera

By Karen Alvarez
Pixley Elementary



On Thursday, November 29, 2018, I as a reporter had the pleasure of interviewing my mother, Ana Vega. I interviewed her to find out more about what she does for a living and what kind of tools and technology she uses in

her workplace.

My mom makes tortillas and steak to sell to people working at the dairies. Sometimes she also makes ceviche. Ceviche is a food that has shrimp, fish, octopus, tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, and lemon juice. She prepares the food in our kitchen. She wakes up around six in the morning and around eight in the

morning she delivers food to the dairies. They call her "la lonchera". When she prepares the food she wraps it in foil. This way the tortillas stay warm. She has been doing this for three months. Before becoming a lonchera, my mom stayed home and took care of us kids.

My mom really likes her job. She likes to drive and deliver the food she makes.

In order to make the food she uses pans, spatulas, the stove, and the oven. Depending on the food she is going to make, she uses different kitchen tools. If my mom didn't have all of the tools she needs available for her to make food to sell, she would not have a job right now.

When my mom was younger she wanted to be a doctor. She used to work at a

clinic before she got married, but left her job to move to the United States with my dad. When she got married we lived in Nogales and moved to the United States when my dad brought us to live over here to give us a better education.

My mom enjoys being "la lonchera" and selling food. She now gets extra money to help my dad pay our bills.

DRONES

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are sick, the farmers have to give them water and treat them.

Drones help people to do work. The drones help because they are able to fly high up over the crops and look down at the crops. They take pictures of the crops which can be seen by the farmers on a computer. This used to be done by planes which could cost over \$1,000 an hour, when now drones can be

purchased for as little as \$1,000. (www.seametrics.com/blog/drones-farming) This makes them much more efficient.

Did you know that drones have a certain height that they can go to? Drones can fly up over 11,000 feet. Drones are used for not only looking around and telling where the disease areas are, but they have a thermal camera that can tell where leaks are and if crops

are getting too much or too little water. (This helps the farmers to adjust the water and make any changes that they need to make easily in those specific areas of the farms).

Drones have different types of controllers. The controllers the Tipton Elementary students used looked like an Xbox controller but, Andy used a computer. He used the computer to program the drone and tell it where to go. He was able to tell the drone to go up, fly around

in a loop and then land, all from his laptop.

We have shown you how drones help farmers make farming easier. They do jobs more efficient, making life better for the farmer. We have proven that they make life easier by being able to go up in the sky looking for diseases and locating them easily for the farmer. They cost less than the way farmers used to find problems on their farms. They are fun to use; that's what we learned!

COTTON

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Before machines were created, people used to pick cotton by hand. It took a lot longer to pick.

They grow 80 acres every season in Tulare. They plant in March and sometimes April and they have to pick the cotton by December 20. Alvin and Janie said that 1,500 pounds of cotton produce 500 pounds of usable cotton. There are things that can affect the cotton.

There are spider mites and whiteflies that can make the cotton sticky and that would not be good for the crop. They say cotton is important because it is a natural fiber. That means it is breathable and better for us when we sweat. Cotton is used to make all kinds of things like shirts, jeans, and cotton balls. Cotton is also good for the environment. Next time you put your shirt and jeans remember how they are made.

Opinion

College should be ~~Free~~



By Abraham Santiago, Grade 12
Farmersville High

My parents grew up in



Mexico and were not able to attend high school. Because of that, providing my siblings and I the opportunity to become educated has been a top priority. In the United States, it used to be that only the rich were able to afford an education. At that time, being able to attend school was highly valued. People were willing to sacrifice greatly to have that opportunity, then would make the most of it. Today, it seems that the

“free education” Americans have historically taken such great pride in, is being taken for granted by those it is supposed to help. A college education still has great value and should not be free to all. Students should have to pay for college because if they don’t, someone else will have to pay; because making a personal investment is a sign of commitment; and because free education will devalue a college degree.

Someone has to pay

Having a free college education is a bad idea because, even though it might be free to the person attending college, someone still has to pay. The government is funded by the taxpayers, so taxpayers will pay the cost of free college for everyone. According to BernieSanders.com, the cost of his plan will be seventy-five billion dollars per year. Our taxes will increase significantly. That student, who goes to college for free, will one day get a job and become a taxpayer. Over his lifetime, he will not only pay for his own education, but also for that of many others. Some think that the rich should pay more taxes so others can have a free education. The problem with that is that the rich are the ones creating business, which creates new jobs, and they are already paying a lot of taxes.

Students Should Invest in Their Futures

Students should invest in their futures. No one should just be handed a free college education. If someone wants a higher education, they should be willing to work for it. Working to accomplish something makes people treasure their accomplishments more. College is not for everyone, it is a choice and a serious commitment. Students need to be sure they are willing to invest not only the money, but also the time and effort necessary. They need to consider what the return on their investment will be. If they are not fully committed, they’ll start college, but

never finish. It’s a waste of time and money--the students’ and the taxpayers’. A recent study by the Institute for Higher Education Leadership and Policy at Cal State Sacramento found that 70% of California community college students failed to graduate or transfer.

Devalues Degree

Free education will devalue a college degree. A college degree is something special because only the most motivated students strive to obtain a degree. If college becomes free, then college will just be an extension of high school. Everyone would go, regardless of how hard they work. As

education has become more accessible, it has become less appreciated. Many students now consider going to school an obligation rather than an opportunity. It’s basic economics--supply and demand. If something is plentiful, then the value will be lower. If colleges feel pressure to award a degree to everyone, then employers will look for something greater to distinguish the most effective workers. The college degree would become expected of a minimally prepared worker. A college degree is like gold because when there is a little bit of gold, it has lots of value, . . . but when gold is everywhere, then it loses its value.

Free college for all sounds like a wonderful opportunity, but evidence shows that it will not work. Free college will overburden America’s taxpayers without achieving the desired result. When college is free to all, the under-committed will fill our community and state colleges, lessening the experience for the highly motivated, and devaluing our degrees. In September, I will begin college, majoring in Electrical Engineering. All students deserve the opportunity that I’ve had--the opportunity to better myself through hard work, and to gain the confidence that results from true achievement.



Banning cell phones in class



By Yamilet Mendoza Santillan, Grade 12
Farmersville High

From my seat in the back of the class, I see it all. The dance, the drama. Students are trying to take advantage of any opportunity to read, or send, those super-important texts--without the teacher noticing. Cellphone usage should be banned in classrooms, for students and teachers. because it makes it too easy to view inappropriate content, to cheat, and to cyberbully. Further, cell phone usage is a huge distraction for everyone in the classroom.

Inappropriate Content

Because personal cell-phones are private and easy to use discreetly, they are often used to access inappropriate content! Teachers need to be able to monitor use of technology in the classroom to ensure that students do not access content that is violent, obscene, or potentially dangerous. Many teens like to listen to music, or play games, that promote violence and drug use. The lyrics and themes are often derogatory toward women, people of certain ethnicities, the LGBT community, and even the police. Many websites offer users the ability to interact with strangers in a variety of ways. Predators are known to use social media to manipulate teens by assuming false identities and taking advantage of their vulnerabilities. These predators also show up in all kinds of chat rooms and in group gaming settings. If students are using school equipment, there is software to block dangerous websites and teachers are able to view screens and know exactly what sites students access. With personal equipment, and new technologies, like Apple Watches and airpods, that is

not possible.

Cheating

Because personal cell phones are private and easy to use discreetly, they are often used to cheat! Students at my school are experts, and have developed a wide array of strategies. A friend of mine always wears her favorite coat on test days--she tucks her phone inside and uses the side-eye strategy to access the information she needs. Those with apple watches, take pictures of information, then casually scroll through them during the exam. Many students participate in group chats to share answers, whether it’s a test or a regular class assignment. It’s unfair that those who actually study and make the effort to learn aren’t necessarily the ones who score the highest. It’s not fair that the testing situation is not equitable for those who don’t bring an expensive personal device to class. Students have always cheated, but allowing phone usage in class makes it much more difficult to monitor.

Cyberbullying

Because personal cell phones are private and easy to use discreetly, they are often used to cyberbully! The i-Safe Foundation reports that more than 1 in 3 young people have experienced cyber threats. Many teens believe it’s funny to post, tweet, or share photos and videos of another student--they don’t always think about how that person will feel. My principal advised us, “Once it goes out there, it will never come back.” Often, something is expected to be seen only by a few close friends, but it’s gets screenshotted and goes public and people start making fun of it.

Distraction

Banning cell phones in the classroom will not solve all of these problems, but it will help during class time. Just a simple vibration causes a student to stop thinking about the lesson, and become completely fixated on finding an opportunity to check the phone. I know adults have the same temptation. Most of my teachers are on their phones occasionally during class, and some are on their phone

a lot! Teachers should set the example. If they tell us that we need to focus and learn to put the phones away; then they should do the same because they need to focus on the lesson and their students. According to a study by Centre of Economic Performance, test scores rose by up to 6% in schools that strictly banned cell phones.

Cell phones could have positive uses in the classroom, yet we don’t use the technology wisely. Banning

the use of cellphones in class, for both students and teachers, will be difficult to adjust to. In the long run, however, it will result in more effective and fair classrooms--with fewer distractions, less access to inappropriate media, less cheating, and more respectful interactions. It has been pretty entertaining to watch my peers find creative ways to use their phones without being caught, but I guess I should focus on the lesson too.



Opinion

Banning cell phones in class



By Levi Angeles,
Grade 9
Farmersville High

The University of London found that those who multitask during cognitive activities had an average IQ drop of 10 points--that would be expected after staying up all night or smoking marijuana! It was even worse for men. Multitasking men saw their IQs drop about 15 points, causing them to communicate with the average mental capacity of an

eight-year-old. I don't think an 8-year-old would do very well in my Biology class, so I need to focus. The use of cell phones in the classroom should be banned for students and teachers. Banning phones will not only provide a more effective learning environment, but will also reduce cheating and lead to a safer and more respectful school climate.

Learning Environment/
Focus

Students will have a better opportunity to learn without phones in the classroom. Some argue that a phone is a learning tool, which students need to learn to use constructively. Okay?... but is it the most effective learning tool?-- and, how effectively can a teacher monitor how phones are used? Students will argue that they need to

use a phone as a calculator, but as soon as the teacher turns her back, those students are on social media, or texting their friends. While personal phones could be used for educational research, many use them to search for videos that are blocked on the school computers.

A 2010 study by Pew Internet and the University of Michigan found that in schools that permitted student to have phone 71% of students sent or received text messages in class. Using phones is a huge temptation.

If students need calculators or other tools, there is no need to bring an expensive device to class. The school can provide tools at a relatively low cost, and all students would have equal access. Many students in

my school don't even have smartphones. The calculator may only be used for the intended learning purpose, but the smartphone is loaded with distracting features. Students will be more focused on the task at hand if they do not have the phone in hand.



Free College



By Yasmin Angeles,
Grade 10
Farmersville High

Calling something free does not make it free. Nothing in life is free. It's simply a matter of who pays the cost. During the 2016 Democratic primaries, Bernie Sanders proposed the idea of free college. Since then, it has been a hot topic, especially with the Democratic party that supports the proposal. Sanders argues many reasons why we should have free college, but his logic is flawed. College should not be free because we can't afford it, college is already accessible for students who work for it; and "free college" hasn't worked out well in other countries.

Free college will be too expensive for taxpayers. Bernie Sanders proposes free tuition at four-year public universities to students whose parents earn below 125,000 dollars--and free community college tuition

for all students. Those who choose to attend private institutions would receive nothing. According to BernieSanders.com, the expected cost for this is 75 billion dollars per year. This is too much for taxpayers to bear. United States taxpayers are already over-burdened with, according to an October 2018 report by USA Today, an annual budget of \$779 billion, and \$21 trillion in national debt. Further, those who choose to attend private college, will pay the full cost of their tuition and pay taxes to provide free college for others. Even those who do enjoy "free college" will eventually, as taxpayers, spend much more than if they had just paid their own tuition.

College is already accessible.

Supporters of free college claim higher education is not accessible to low-income students who earn good grades and are committed to bettering their lives. But, it is accessible! There are resources for low-income students, including: migrant, college-prep, and after-school tutoring programs. There is also financial aid and scholarships--many are specifically for those who have overcome obstacles. The problem is--many students do not take these opportunities. In my school, I see the staff constantly

trying to help us, but students avoid them because they don't want to be seen as "nerds" or "try-hards". Even in this program, there are many students from my school who would benefit, but do not participate because they do not want to do the work. With free college, even fewer would do extra work to better themselves. That is not good for individuals, nor will it improve the quality of our workforce. Students like me know there is a path to college if we make good choices and persist. But we also know we have to work hard, because it will not be "given to us". Those of us who do take advantage of opportunity, and remain focused on our goals, ARE achieving--and we ARE attending college. That hard work is an investment in ourselves, because we truly value education. Education should not be an entitlement.

Free college has not been successful in other countries.

Proponents of free college argue that countries, like Finland, Greece, and Germany, have successfully implemented free college. These countries however, do not offer free college to ALL. They have requirements like exams that students have to take to qualify; they also require children to choose a track, either aca-

demic or vocational. Many choose a vocational track or do not meet the requirements for the academic track. Others are eligible for free college, but choose to attend private schools, which are not free. Most college graduates in these countries accumulate debt similar to Americans. AND, these countries have significantly higher taxes. In Germany the tax rate is 49.4 percent, and only 62% participate in some kind of college or training.

The consequences of providing free college to ALL outweigh the benefits. Taxpayers cannot afford to foot the bill for everyone to attend, regardless of their level of commitment. College should be accessible to all--and it is! And, the countries that are pointed to as having exemplary free

college programs are not

We cannot rely on the gov-



comparable because they are offering free college to only an elite group of students. Free college is not the way to go. Americans will benefit from being personally responsible and self-sufficient.

ernment to provide for us. Thomas Jefferson once said, "A government big enough to give you everything you want, is strong enough to take everything you have." Remember that.



UC Merced is the place to be

By Yenifer Romo, Erik Ramos,
Angel Alva, Alizah Alva, Jesus
Rocha, Karina Mendoza
Freedom Elementary

UC Merced School of Engineering Trains Future California Water Experts. “Maybe someday you will come back and attend this university,” a comment by one of Lorenzo’s relatives he visited in Merced.

What in the world is an environmental engineer? After touring University of California Merced, October 30, 2018, we had the opportunity to interview Lorenzo Booth, a student pursuing a degree in environmental engineering. Booth grew up in Los Angeles and told us that he wasn’t exposed to a natural environment. His family had to travel out of the city to see what it looked like. Merced, California was

one of those places. He remembers visiting relatives in Merced when he was young and looking out to the open field where the university was being built. He also said that his dream was to attend a UC related to environmental engineering, so after researching engineering schools he chose UC Merced over Cal Poly. His inspiration in science started at a young age. He

told us that when he was little he would watch PBS Kratts Creatures, a science educational program that teaches kids about science. He explained to us that watching Kratts Creatures was where he learned the effects of water pollution on coral reefs. When he was in eighth grade, his class took a field trip to the city dump. He was amazed at the amount of the trash that was thrown away- trash that

could be recycled to improve the environment. Booth said that it was in this field trip that he learned about the three R’s; Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. His curiosity in science started to expand. Then he started to read

books in astronomy, which is the scientific study of the stars. He was interested in astronomy because he was not able to see the stars in LA, because of light pollution.

One of Booth’s most important parts of his job is applying technology to design a computerized robot that can be used in orchards. It was awesome how he explained that these robots can



Farmersville Migrant Education students interview Lorenzo Booth during a field trip to UC Merced.



After high school, he decided to specialize on something more specific, like environmental engineering. He did his masters in hydrology, the study of water. Booth told us that every nation uses resources from the environment. We learned that the water cycle system is connected to everything. He said we need to take care of our resources if we want clean food. To have clean food we need to have clean air, clean water, and clean soil. Booth said that one pollutant that can affect our water system and soil, for example, is gas that is stored underground. If it leaks, it will pollute our water system and our soil.

be used to measure water moisture in the soil. Another one of his future goals is to build water plants. He said technology is important in this field because it is used to process data information and help us use water more efficiently. We were curious and asked Lorenzo what we should do if we want to pursue a career in science. His advice was for us to apply our curiosity and find out things on our own. As an elementary student he was curious about the stars and rockets. He said for us to read books about things that interest us.

Technology in Local Agriculture

By Karina Canchola,
Jasmine Munguia,
Elliott Lau, and Ivan
Roblero
Palo Verde School

sion. Melvin “Mel” Monterio, along with his son, own and operate a trucking company called Monterio Trucking that hauls gravel and feed to local dairies.

made learning fun for us. Although he didn’t attend college, he says he attended the “school of hard knocks” by staying home and helping his dad. Mel strongly encourages young people to attend college and to continue with their learning. His own children have earned their degrees and he is very proud of them.

Mel says that there are many benefits in agriculture today because of the use of technology. For example, the trucks he uses for his business are more efficient. The technology from his computer tells him what is wrong with a truck, how it can be repaired, and it can be done immediately without him having to waste time trying to figure it out himself. He said it’s the same with tractors. The technology apps that are available make it easier on farmers and it saves them time and money. Mel described a new type of tractor that is currently being tested. The tractor is special because it will be “driverless”.

Mel stated how technology is used, so that we can improve and produce more. He says that this is good because of our growing population. For example, he explained how our summers

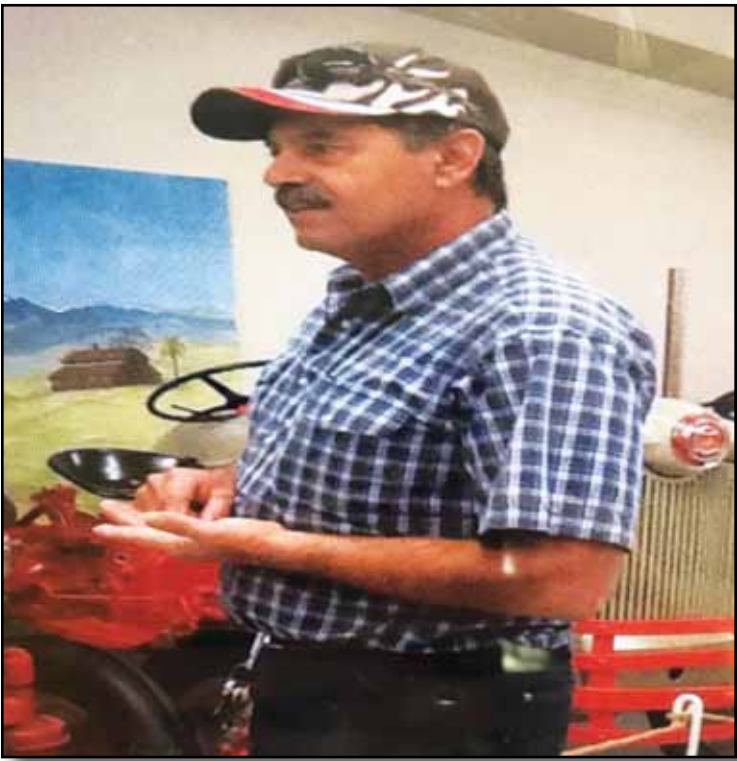
have been dry and that it hurts the cotton crops. Also, a lack of water is hurting all of the crops. Without water, we won’t have crops in our stores for us to purchase and eat.

When asked what the most important thing about agriculture is, Mel was quick to respond with “water”. He stated, “We need water and without it, we have nothing.”

In regards to technology use in the future, he said to be on the lookout for the driverless tractors; more drones being used to spray our fields in order to kill and control bugs and weeds.

In closing, when asked what his favorite part of the job is, Mel was quick to respond that he loves doing something for a customer and he enjoys a challenge, especially when it’s something a competitor can’t do;

it makes him work harder until he can figure it out. As students, we think this was wonderful advice that we should apply to our learning in school. Just because we can’t figure something out, we shouldn’t quit. We need to keep at it until we get it because, then we get to enjoy the success of knowing that we didn’t give up. That sounds like good advice for everyone to practice, so thank you Mel for your words of wisdom.



Wow, to think that we didn’t have to go far to see and learn about the many uses of technology in agriculture! For us, it is literally outside our school’s campus. On Friday, November 9, 2018, we were given the opportunity to visit the Tulare Ag Center and learn about technology in agriculture. We had the pleasure to meet one of the many local farmers who has integrated technology into his profes-

They also do demolition to houses and dairies. Mel was born and raised in Tulare and attended Waukena Elementary and Tulare Western High schools. Mel has been a volunteer at the Tulare Farm Show for 41 years and personally led us on an amazing tour through the museum located in the Ag Center. He explained the history of each item and we could tell he really enjoyed what he was doing. Mel



Meet Our Journalists



Angel Alva
Grade 4



Brenda Santillan-Ramos
Grade 4



Elysa Ramos
Grade 4



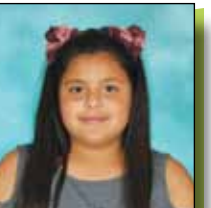
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Sandy Bustamante
Pena Grade 4



Alizah Alva
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Karina Mendoza
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Osbaldo Ayala
Grade 6



Juan Rosiles
Grade 6



Analeah Ruiz
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Jenavi Gonzalez
Lemuz Grade 3



Juliana Jimenez
Grade 3



Valeria Molina
Grade 3



Yaretzi Ramirez
Grade 3



Jennifer Carlos
Delgado Grade 3



Cristian Leyva
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Esmeralda Ruiz
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Julisa Calderon
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Uriel Becerra
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Our Migrant children thank all of you and appreciate you taking the time to lend a helping hand. As a result of everyone's efforts, we may see these students as future journalists.